

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

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R 270305Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7226

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2896

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, KS

SUBJECT: ROK OIL DRILLING

REF: SEOUL 1379

1. AMBASSADOR SNEIDER HAS ASKED US TO REPEAT TO INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES SUBSTANCE OF MEMCON POUCHED TO EA/J AND EA/ROK FEB. 17. CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE ON FEB. 12 BETWEEN EMBOFF DONALD WESTMORE AND GLEN LEDINGHAM, U.S. OIL CONSULTANT WORKING OUT OF TOKYO WHO HAS PROVIDED AMEMBASSY TOKYO WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING JAPANESE PETROLEUM AFFAIRS FOR SEVERAL YEARS.

2. LEDINGHAM SAID THE ROKG HAD CONTACTED HIM WHILE ON VACATION IN THE U.S. AND BROUGHT HIM TO SOUTH KOREA JAN. 2-4, WHERE HE WAS ACCORDED VIP TREATMENT BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. AFTER DINING WITH AN ASSISTANT MINISTER ON JAN. 2, LEDINGHAM WAS PLACED IN THE CARE OF RETIRED BRIG. GEN. YOUNG SOO KIM AND MR. DONG CHANG YUG OF THE DONG SIN COMPANY. THE DONG SIN COMPANY WAS LATER IDENTIFIED TO HIM AS BEING A  
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KCIA FRONT. HE WAS CAUTIONED THAT THE SUBJECT OF HIS

VISIT WAS HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL.

3. LEDINGHAM WAS TAKEN TO THE SITE OF THE OIL STRIKE NEAR YONGIL BAY WHERE THE KOREANS HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN EXPLORATION DRILLING UTILIZING TWO SMALL DIAMONG DRILLS. THE DRILLS HAD REACHED A DEPTH OF 1550 METERS AND HAD ENCOUNTERED A SMALL DEPOSIT OF OIL COMBINED WITH GROUND WATER IN A VOLCANIC ROCK FORMATION. THE KOREANS HAD RECOVERED ABOUT TEN LITERS OF OIL WHICH UNDER ANALYSIS PROVED TO BE COMPARABLE TO ARABIAN LIGHT OIL. IN A LENGTHY REPORT WRITTEN ON THE SPOT, LEDINGHAM ADVISED THE KOREANS THAT ORDINARILY ONE DOES NOT SEEK OIL IN VOLCANIC FORMATIONS. BUT SINCE THERE MAY BE SEDIMENTARY FORMATIONS AT A GREATER DEPTH, HE ADVISED THEM TO BRING IN A LARGER RIG CAPABLE OF AT LEAST 3,000 METERS OF DRILLING AND WITH A LARGER RECOVERY PIPE.

4. LEDINGHAM TOLD WESTMORE THAT HE THOUGHT THE CHANCES FOR A REALLY SIGNIFICANT FIND WERE FAIRLY LOW, BUT A DEPOSIT OF 10-15 MILLION BARRELS WAS POSSIBLE. HE EXPECTS THE ROKG WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN AND HAS PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED.

5. LEDINGHAM ALSO SAID THAT ANOTHER CONSULTANT IS INVOLVED: THE TOKYO-BASED MACHII-ROSS COMPANY WHICH ALSO HAS A RELATIONSHIP TO WILLIAM GREEN, A FREE-LANCE TECHNICAL DRILLING EXPERT. FINALLY, LEDINGHAM UNDERSTANDS THAT UNITED GEOPHYSICAL OF PASADENA, CALIFORNIA HAS BEEN CONTACTED ABOUT FURTHER DRILLING OPERATIONS.  
HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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